(c) what are the reasons for not distributing the same through the public distribution system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir As per the survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the household consumption of vanaspati formed nearly 61 per cent of the despatches in the year 1982-83.

(b) Imported oils are released in some quantities to the vanaspati units so as to maintain the prices of vanaspati, an essential commodity, at a reasonable level and also to relieve the pressure on indigenous oils which are in popular demand for direct consumption.

(c) There is no centralised control on the distribution of vanaspati. The question of introducing such controls in conjunction with the control on prices had been considered on more than one occasion in the past but it was not found practicable to do so. However, State Govt./UTs have been advised to procure 30 per cent of vanaspati produced in their jurisdiction for sale through fair price/ration shops, if necessary.

Economic houses made of Local raw materials

1778. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to provide mass housing in the rural and urban areas;

(b) whether any work is being done to evolve designs of economic houses based on local raw materials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH). (a) Housing is a State subject and the State Government and Union Territory Administration are fully competent to formulate the housing schemes in accordance with their need and plan priorities. The National Housing Policy has advocated the creation of an enabling environment to augment housing construction activity both in Rural and in Urban areas. The State Government have been advised to prepare perspective plans of action in this regard urgently.

(b) The Government has given special emphasis to encourage low cost housing designs based on local building materials, using latest cost effective and energy efficient technologies. *

(c) The 15 Rural Housing Development Centres of the National Buildings Organisation in various parts of the country are engaged in evolving low cost designs of housing. Based on low cost design, these centres constructed number of cluster demonstration low cost rural housing projects in different claimatic conditions in various parts of the country. The economical designs evolved by the NBO and its regional centres and State level research agencies have been utilised by several State Governments in implementation of their housing programmes.

To disseminate the low cost technology developed by various research institutions like Central Building Research Institute, NBO etc. to the grassroot level and also to encourage the use of low cost building materials developed from locally available materials, a national network of Bulding Centres has been launched by the Government & HUDCO. These Centres, in addition to the production of low cost building materials, will also impart training to the youths and local artisans for upgrading their skills.

Strategy for Eighth plan to meet the steel Demand

1779. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister o STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual steel demand for the Eighth Plan;

(b) what is strategy of Government to meet this demand;

(c) the amount estimated to be produced by the integrated steel plants and mini-steel plants separately; and

(d) whether Government are encouraging large mini-steel plants to come up in the private/joint sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (c) The assessed demand and estimated availability of finished steel in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period is shown in the Annexure. (See Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 83)

(b) It is proposaed to increase indigenous production by modernisation and expansion of existing integrated steel plants and establishment of additional steel making capacities in the country.

(d) Under the existing guidelines for ferrous metallurgical industry, new steel making capacities of 50,000 tonnes per annum are permitted to be set up in certain hilly and remote areas. In addition existing steel plants who undertake modernization by improving their productivity and reducing energy consumption are allowed expansion upto a maximum capacity of 2.5 lakh tonnes.

Central assistance to flood affected people in Madhya Pradesh

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the floods in Madhya Pradesh also affected a number of families in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what were the number of people affected by the floods and to what extent the Central Aid was provided to these victims and what rehabilitation measures have been taken for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh has not reported any damage due to floods during South-West Monsoon of 1988.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-British fertilizer Education project in M. P.

1781. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team of Overseas Development Administration visited Bhopal recently;

(b) whether the above visit was in connection with the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation in implementing the Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project in the State; and

(c) if so, what were the main discussions held with the high level team and to what extent it helped in implementing the Indo-British Fertilizer Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A monitoring team of Overseas Development Administration visited certain districts of Madhya Pradesh with a view of monitoring the implementation of the Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project. Rainfed farming project also figured in the discussions. Such visits by the monitoring team and the discussions are useful for the effective implementation of the project.

Recruitment of physically handicapped in Govt. office and public sector undertaings

1782. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota reserved for physically handicapped persons or recruitment in Government Department and public Sector Undertakings;

(b) what is the present backlog; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ensure that all qualified disabled persons are provided jobs and that they are not discriminated in employment opportunities?